



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 30, 2016

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Ringgold Telephone Company
Study Area Code 220382**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Ringgold Telephone Company("Company"), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Company's Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report required by Section 54.313.³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313.



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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2016 ETC Annual Report of Ringgold Telephone Company
Study Area Code 220382
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Ringgold Telephone Company (the "Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").³
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313, Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2016 Report.⁴
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313.

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.
6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

Request for Confidentiality

Page 3

the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Progress Report to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.

7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Progress Report provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form**

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 220382

<015> Study Area Name RINGGOLD TEL CO

<020> Program Year 2017

<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact
with questions about this data Mike Wallin

<035> Contact Telephone Number: 7069651721 ext.
Number of the person identified in data line <030>

<039> Contact Email Address: mwallin@rtctel.com
Email of the person identified in data line <030>

Form Type 54.313 and 54.422

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Not Applicable

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**(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? No

[illegible]

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules		FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtotel.com
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
		220382ga510.pdf
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form		REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	220382ga610.pdf

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(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

[illegible]

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(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Ringgold Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Ringgold Telephone Company

[illegible]

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<900>	Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N)	No
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If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

[illegible]

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

220382ga1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<2010>	2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support			
<2011>	3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support			
<2022>	Recipient certifies, representing year two after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.			
<2023>	The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.			
<2024A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?			
<2024B>	Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information		
<2025A>	Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?			
<2025B>	Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information		
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)			

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)	
(3010A)	Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	Yes - Attach Certification
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	Yes - Attach New Community Anchors
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3019)	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3022)	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010> Study Area Code	220382
<015> Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
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<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010> Study Area Code	220382
<015> Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	RINGGOLD TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/30/2016
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Michael Wallin
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Regulatory Manager
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	7069651721 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	220382 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	RINGGOLD TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/30/2016
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	Lans Chase
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Staff Director - Regulatory Affairs
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692015 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	220382 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Demonstration of Complying with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules for Voice and Broadband

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement” and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Company is subject to consumer protection obligations under Georgia state law and federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Georgia Public Service Commission which discloses rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Chapter 515-12-1-.02(5)(a) and .04(5) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which require Service Standards (Chapter 515-12-1-.17 and .18 of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); Customer Billing (Chapter 515-12-1-.04(4) of

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia; and Customer Complaints (Chapter 515-12-1-.08 of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Chapter 515-12-1-.04(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

The Company is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in F.C.C. 47 C.F.R. Part 8 §8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*.

Demonstration of Ability to Function in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband

Ringgold Telephone Company, Inc. (“Company”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §54.202(a)(2)¹ and Chapter 515-12-1-.11(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. Company’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2) and Chapter 515-12-1-.11(4) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. Company can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Company to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require.

Specifically, the central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Company has battery backup the central office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. The company’s standby generators and battery back-up support both voice and broadband network equipment should an emergency situation occur.

In addition, Company has both an Emergency Operations Plan and a Disaster Recovery Plan in place.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	220382
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<015> Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
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<020> Program Year	2017
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<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
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<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
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1/1/2016

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(800) Operating Companies Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
-----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<010>	Study Area Code	220382
<015>	Study Area Name	RINGGOLD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Mike Wallin
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7069651721 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	mwallin@rtctel.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Ringgold Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Ringgold Telephone Company

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M
2nd Revised Sheet 65
Cancels 1st Revised Sheet 65

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM

(C)

The Company, as part of its obligations as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, offers a low-income assistance program. This program, Lifeline Assistance, is offered under the terms and conditions provided below:

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance

A. General

Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable retail service offering for which qualifying low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges for voice telephony service that includes the following services: voice-grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent; local usage; access to emergency services; and toll limitation.

B. Regulations

Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:

1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:

Medicaid;
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;
Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
Federal Public Housing Assistance;
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program;
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
Low Income Senior Citizens discount plan offered by a local gas or power company

3. Other eligibility requirements may be established by the Commission.

(C)

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M
2nd Revised Sheet 66
Cancels 1st Revised Sheet 66

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(C)

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)

B. Regulations (Cont'd)

4. Each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in sub-paragraphs (B)(1) through (B)(3), above, and must, on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s). The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.
5. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.
6. Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, unless the Company first demonstrates to the Commission that the Company would incur substantial costs, that the Company offers toll limitation without charge, and that telephone subscribership among low-income subscribers in the Company's service area is greater than or equal to the national subscribership rate for low-income consumers. For purposes of this paragraph, a "low-income consumer" is one with an income below the poverty level for a family of four residing in Georgia. The Company shall follow all applicable notice provisions as established, from time to time, by the Commission, as part of the waiver process, and to implement a waiver, if granted. The Company may reapply for the waiver as necessary.
7. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available or if the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

(C)

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section M
2nd Revised Sheet 67
Cancels 1st Revised Sheet 67

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

M.25 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(C)

M.25.1 Lifeline Assistance (Cont'd)

- C. Effective August 1, 2012, the Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in Georgia is equal to the total of federal support as established by the Federal Communications Commission. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage.
- D. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer's federal Subscriber Line Charge. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate.
- E. To be eligible for Lifeline Assistance, qualifying customers must subscribe to a flat-rate basic local exchange service offering that is made available in the Company's service area.
- F. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- G. All aspects of the Lifeline Assistance program shall be subject to the interpretation of applicable Federal regulations and any directives which may from time to time be prescribed by the Universal Service Administrative Company. These rules are separate and apart from any rules prescribed as part of a state Universal Service program.

(C)

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

Ringgold Telephone Company
Georgia Public Service Commission

Section C
Eleventh Revised Sheet 3
Cancels Tenth Revised Sheet 3

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

C.3 Local Exchange Service Rates

C.3.1 The rates specified herein entitle subscribers to access all exchange lines in the subscribers county within the same LATA, all exchanges access lines bearing the central office designation of the subscriber's exchange and all access lines bearing the central office designation(s) of additional exchanges in the basic service area as shown following:

Basic Service Area

Exchange	Additional Exchanges
Ringgold	Chattanooga

NETWORK ACCESS CHARGE

MONTHLY

Business:

One Party	\$30.75
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Residence:

One Party	\$20.09	(I)
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Key System

Tone	\$49.95
------	---------

PBX	\$79.00
-----	---------

C.4

Information previously shown on this page can now be found in Section M.

Issued: November 30, 2015

Effective: January 1, 2016

By: Alice Evitt Bandy

Title: President

Ringgold Telephone Company (SAC 220382)

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Ringgold Telephone Company (SAC 220382) hereby certifies that throughout 2015, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, and offering broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is reasonable, the Company offers broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream.

Newly Served Community Anchor Institutions - 2015

Number

1

Name

Georgia Northwestern

Address

6450 Alabama Hwy Ringgold, GA 30736

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY